

**CMS Special Open Door Forum:
The Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Medicare Administrative
Contractor (MAC) Request for Information (RFI)**

February 25, 2005
1:00-4:00 pm (EST)

On February 25, 2005, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will be hosting a Special Open Door Forum focusing on discussion of the DME MAC RFI. This RFI has been released to obtain information from any entities interested in competing for the DME workload as well as from any other interested stakeholders. The RFI went on display at FedBizOpps on Tuesday, February 8, 2005.

Background:

CMS is launching an important new effort to improve the administration of Medicare fee-for-service program operations as they affect both beneficiaries, and the providers and suppliers who treat them. Since its inception in 1965, the Medicare program has been required to contract with health insuring companies to perform its claims processing and related administrative functions. Section 911 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) requires the Secretary to take needed steps between now and 2011 to implement Medicare Contracting Reform. The CMS is required to reform the procedure it uses to enter into administrative contracts. The law directs CMS to conduct full and open competitions for new MACs, who will perform the work now being handled by fiscal intermediaries, carriers and Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs) in administering the Medicare fee-for-service program.

The first of the full and open competitions will be for the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) claims workloads. The strategy of competing this discrete, comparatively small workload will allow CMS to closely examine its acquisition and transition efforts, avoiding disruption to suppliers and beneficiaries. Additionally, it allows CMS the unique opportunity to implement the Medicare Contracting Reform provisions on a smaller scale and gain critical knowledge and experience which can be applied to larger, more complex MAC procurements in the future.

For further information, please view the fact sheet available at:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1352>

Open Door Participation Instructions:

There are 2 ways to participate, by phone or "in-person".

1. To participate by phone:

Dial: **1-800-837-1935** & Reference Conference ID: **3993135**

Persons participating by phone do not need to RSVP.

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>.

A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

2. To participate in-person:

If you intend to participate in person, RSVP is required:

Please send a reply to this email by close of business Tuesday, February 22, 2005 to SpecialODF@cms.hhs.gov.

Please include the words "DME MAC" in the subject line of your message, and send us the following information:

- a) Your full name
- b) Your organization or representation
- c) Your contact information (phone and email)
- d) Special needs information

Location information:

ADDRESS:

CMS Single Site Building
Auditorium
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Map & Directions: <http://cmsnet.cms.hhs.gov/hpages/ocsq/cmsdirections-north.htm>

ENCORE: 1-800-642-1687

"Encore" is a recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conf. ID # 3993135

The recording expires after 4 business days.

For automatic emails of Open Door Forum schedule updates (Listserv registration) and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor.

